

shows that these gentlemen were possessed of a spirit of gratitude, to say the least of it, but I am inclined to the opinion that the average taxpayer of the state will insist that they ought to have used their individual funds instead of requiring the people of the state to defray the expenses of those who were indicted for crime committed in the performance of heroic service in their behalf. It is bad enough to wink at those who commit election frauds, but this action on the part of the democratic legislature wherein the violation of law by election officials is recognized by statute is something new in the way of legislation.

Increase of Judges

We have heard a great deal of talk about republican extravagance in the past, and we were told in 1876 that we had too many judges, etc., and that if the democrats ever got into power, instead of increasing the number of officers in the state, there would be a gradual reduction in every department until we were placed upon a Jeffersonian basis. However, in utter disregard of its pledges, the last democratic legislature increased the number of judges from 12 to 16, thereby creating a number of nice positions for democratic politicians in different parts of the state. The increase of judges in my opinion was entirely unnecessary. I am satisfied you will bear me out in the statement that 12 judges were able to dispatch all the business that was to be found upon the court dockets in the various counties in the state. It is no uncommon thing to have a judge only spend one or two days at a court, and they rarely ever consume the full time allotted by law except in the larger cities where the dockets are somewhat congested. The districts could easily have been rearranged and the work more equitably distributed and adjusted so that 12 judges could have transacted the business without inconvenience, but our democratic friends had a number of patriots on their hands whose condition was such that nothing short of an office could bring peace and harmony in the democratic councils. The last legislature devoted much of its time to the creation of new offices, and I am informed by a distinguished Superior court judge that before the democrats left Raleigh each member and senator filed a laborers' lien on some one of the positions that had been created. In some instances there was a conflict as to the rights of individuals,

especially in cases where liens had been filed on a particular place by a number of legislators, and in such cases Gov. Aycock, sitting as a chancellor, was very much embarrassed, and I am told that although he could not give every member of the legislature an office, at the same time he recognized the rights of those who had filed liens, giving preference of course to those who had voted for the impeachment of the judges.

There are many other instances wherein expenditures have been increased, but I will not undertake on this occasion to enter into details.

Education Talk Is Late

The democratic platform recently adopted at Greensboro declares in favor of educating the people. This declaration comes rather late, especially when we consider the record of the democratic party during its lease of power prior to 1895. I am glad to know that the democrats are at last willing to join hands with the republicans in their efforts to educate the people, realizing as we do that the education of the masses will result in more good to the people than any other one thing that can be done by those who are entrusted with the management of our state affairs. From 1870 until 1895 the democratic party was in control of the legislative branch of the government and from 1876 to 1895 they were in control of the executive branch and during that time illiteracy among those of 21 years of age and upwards increased on an average of about 1000 per annum, while on the other hand the republican party in 1868 provided for the common schools of the state by inserting a clause in our state constitution which favors secures to the poor children of the state a system of free schools. It was the alliance members of the legislature, aided by the republicans, that increased the school tax to 16 cents in 1891, and it was the populist and republican legislature that increased it to 18 cents. The increase in valuation of real and personal property for the years 1897 and 1898 resulted in an increase in the school fund of about \$54,000.00, and with these facts staring Senator Simmons in the face, he declared at the recent democratic convention that there had been no increase in the public school fund during the republican and populist administration.

According to the census, 23 per cent of the white people of North Carolina can neither read nor write. The recent amendment adopted to our state consti-